

In the Claims

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16(Original). A system for converting data from one or more systems into a hierarchical data scheme, comprising:

- a) a user-defined document definition file, which is identified by a unique name and defines a list of parameters, and is a hierarchically organized set of elements, each element comprising an element type, a text value, a list of attributes and a list of child elements; and
- b) a module that accepts a request from a requesting system, the request including the unique name of a document definition file and a parameter name with corresponding value; upon receiving the request, the module reads the document definition file, visits each element and replaces a reference to a parameter, element or attribute with an actual value; and returns a data file to the requesting system.

17(Original). The system of claim 16 wherein a format of the document definition file may be an Extensible Markup Language (XML), a Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), or their variants.

18(Original). The system of claim 17, wherein the element contains a command.

19(Original). The system of claim 18, wherein the command includes a substitutable parameter.

20(Original). The system of claim 19, further including a graphical tree based environment.

21(Original). The system of claim 20, wherein the graphical tree based environment executes a portion of the document definition file.

22(Original). The system of claim 21 wherein the element specifies an operation executed by a software program.

23(Original). The system of claim 22 wherein the reference is replaced by a value prior to the execution of any operation.

24(Original). The system of claim 23 wherein the operation changes a hierarchy of the document definition file.

25(Original). The system of claim 24, wherein the operation is conditional.

26(Original). The system of claim 24 further including a display module capable of displaying the data file.

27(Original). The system of claim 26 wherein an element defines a join operation.

28(Original). The system of claim 27 wherein the conditional operation determines a path of execution through the document definition file.

29-38(Cancelled).